

Austin American-Statesman

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WHY SOONERS ARE BIG 12'S RUNAWAY FAVORITES

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GRACKLE WEEK ENCORE

- Artist creates grackle mural
- When grackles attack

NEW DETAILS AUSTIN DEVELOPMENT RULES

Judge orders CodeNext plan on the ballot

Question remains on whether proposal would violate state law.

By Philip Jankowski
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The CodeNext petition ordinance will appear on November's ballot after a judge on Monday overturned previous action by the Austin City Council.

In her order, Travis County state District Judge Orlinda Naranjo ruled it was premature for the City Council to prevent Austin residents from voting on the petition ordinance.

"We are gratified by the court's decision respecting Austinites' right to vote," said Fred Lewis, an anti-CodeNext activist and the lead attorney in the lawsuit against the city. "We expect the mayor and council to honor their word and put the petition on the ballot, per Judge Naranjo's order."

While it was good news for Lewis and the largely anti-CodeNext groups that have been the loudest supporters of the petition ordinance, Naranjo's order made no ruling on whether the proposed ordinance would violate state law that prevents votes on zoning.

That was the main legal point outside counsel for the city of Austin made to Naranjo during arguments July 2. But in a letter to attorneys, Naranjo said it was too early to deny an election on those grounds because CodeNext remains in draft form.

"Neither the parties nor the

CodeNext continued on A4

U.S.-RUSSIA MEETING

Trump: Putin denied meddling in election

Russian leader 'extremely strong and powerful' in statement, president says.

Congressional leaders back U.S. intelligence conclusion that there was meddling.



With President Donald Trump looking on, Russian President Vladimir Putin holds a World Cup soccer ball during a joint news conference after their meeting Monday in Helsinki. The two leaders met one-on-one and discussed a range of issues, including the 2016 U.S. election. CHRIS MCGRATH / GETTY IMAGES

2018 ELECTION FUNDRAISING

7 Texas Democrats outraise their rivals

Four of them amass more than \$1 million each in second quarter.

By Jonathan Tilove and Julie Chang
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Seven Texas Democratic congressional candidates outraised their rivals in Republican-held districts in the second quarter of the year, including four Democrats who amassed more than \$1 million, according to campaign finance reports filed over the weekend, with most becoming available Monday.

"I don't think that's happened ever before," longtime Democratic strategist Matt Angle said. "I've been involved in congressional elections in one way or another since 1984, and I've never seen a circumstance where we've ever seen four challengers raise money at that level."

Three of the Democrats who raised more than \$1 million are running in the most competitive Texas districts in a year in which control of the U.S. House is on the line. They are Gina Ortiz Jones of San Antonio, who is challenging U.S. Rep. Will Hurd, R-Helotes; Lizzie Pannill Fletcher of Hous-

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■ Who they are and how much they raised, **A8**

■ Gov. Greg Abbott has \$29M in re-election cash, **B1**

ton, up against U.S. Rep. John Culberson, R-Houston; and Colin Allred of Dallas, seeking to unseat U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Dallas.

But the impressive hauls in all three case include money the Democratic candidates raised to win their May 22 runoffs to secure their party's nominations, and they all still lag far behind the GOP incumbent in cash on hand.

The fourth million-dollar Democratic candidate is MJ Hegar of Round Rock, whose fundraising surged with the release in June of a campaign video bio recounting her heroism as a search-and-rescue Air Force pilot in Afghanistan.

Her opponent, U.S. Rep. John Carter, R-Round Rock, raised \$267,000 and now has \$538,000 in the bank, compared with Hegar's \$867,000.

Carter's lagging fundraising may be attributable to the confidence, or complacency, of a candidate seeking a ninth term who

Elections continued on A8

From news services

HELSINKI, FINLAND — During a two-hour historic meeting, President Donald Trump and President Vladimir Putin of Russia discussed a litany of issues, ranging from nuclear arms control to Syria's civil war to Moscow's interference in the 2016 presidential election.

In a news conference after their one-on-one meeting, Trump challenged the assertion that Russia had interfered. In fact, Trump said, Putin privately denied the

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Texas lawmakers criticize president's remarks, **A4**

accusations in an "extremely strong and powerful" way.

When an American journalist asked Trump whether he believes U.S. intelligence or Putin, Trump replied, "They said they think it's Russia. I have President Putin; he just said it's not Russia."

Trump added: "I will say this: I

don't see any reason why it would be ... I have great confidence in my intelligence people, but I will tell you that President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today."

Later, on his flight home from Helsinki, Trump reiterated his support for the U.S. intelligence community. "As I said today and many times before, 'I have GREAT confidence in MY intelligence people,'" the president tweeted. "However, I also recognize that

Meeting continued on A4

CONTINUING COVERAGE FETAL BURIAL LAW

Judge in fetal burial trial defends actions

By Chuck Lindell
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A federal trial over the future of a Texas law requiring that fetal remains be buried or cremated got off to an unusual start Monday when the judge defended himself from a federal appeals court that had questioned his motives in the case.

The dispute involved a side issue over a subpoena compelling the



Senior U.S. District Judge David Ezra says he has no bias or preconceived notions in case.

Texas Conference of Catholic Bishops to disclose more than 1,000 pages of emails and other communication detailing its support for the 2017 law and efforts to pro-

vide free burial services to reduce the law's impact.

The bishops appealed, and in a rare Sunday opinion, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals quashed the subpoena in a 2-1 ruling that took issue not only with enforcement of the subpoena — which was sought by abortion providers to aid in cross-examination — but also the rapid pretrial schedule adopted

Burial continued on A6

TRAVEL EXTRA

EQUADORIAN AMAZON IS A WATERY PARADISE

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Explore Travel Extra in today's ePaper
Enjoy bonus travel coverage, available only to subscribers at statesman.com/epaper.

NATION & WORLD, A5
Plutonium missing; government silent
Security experts left radioactive material in their vehicle at a San Antonio hotel, and it disappeared.

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Vol. 147 No. 357

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